

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

President's Corner: A Quick Look

Clarke Brown, PT, DPT, OCS, ATC

Time has passed quickly while serving as President of the Foot and Ankle Special Interest Group (FASIG). For 6 years, it has been my honor and privilege to serve our members, about 700 of the most interested and qualified physical therapists who contribute to the research and care of the foot and ankle. Ensuring that this group of clinicians and academic professionals can communicate with each other to enhance the ways physical therapists can evaluate, treat, and manage foot dysfunction is the formidable purpose of our group. Since our SIG is changing leadership, NOW is the time to review our short-term past and plan for the future.

First, let me highlight a major FASIG accomplishment. Back in 2007, our previous President, Steve Paulseth, led the group and began a process of surveying entry-level physical therapy programs about the curriculum content of our physical therapy programs. The FASIG wanted to better understand what programs were teaching, and moreover, how the collective knowledge of the foot and ankle could help supplement the education of entry-level students regarding foot and ankle. The results indicated that entry-level programs would appreciate more foot and ankle information, in particular, the topics of evaluation and treatment strategies.

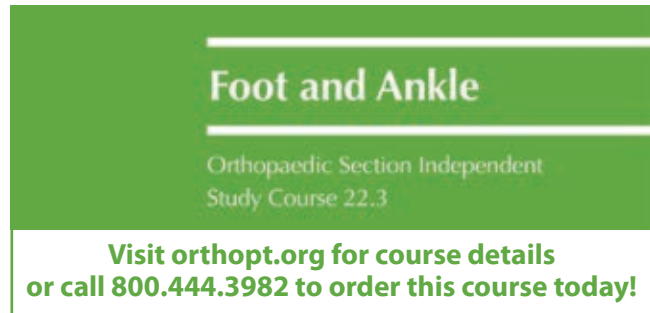
In 2011, the FASIG developed a Task Force to begin the process of providing additional and consistent curriculum content to entry-level physical therapy programs. Thirty-five experts in the foot and ankle gathered at APTA headquarters in Virginia to create an entire supplemental curriculum for any entry-level program that desired recommendations to assist in their current programming. Over the next 4 years, this curriculum document would be vetted, presented at CSM for further inspection, and then re-written, re-formatted, and re-written again. The end result is a fully cited, referenced, comprehensive curriculum content document available to ALL physical therapy programs. The document is downloadable to all members at the orthopt.org website.

Without hesitation, I NOW would like to offer you an opportunity to join the FASIG, or perhaps step into an officer role, because affiliating with this group can impact your career in physical therapy. My experience as President has been humbling and illuminating. By far, the most amazing aspect of the FASIG is the variety of foot and ankle conditions that the clinician is involved with. These areas include diabetic care, prosthetics, orthotics, hallux valgus, bunion care, and plantar fasciitis to just name a few. Lastly, the degree of professionalism within the FASIG is exceptional.

Where is the FASIG headed? The answer lies in the question, what do YOU want from the FASIG?

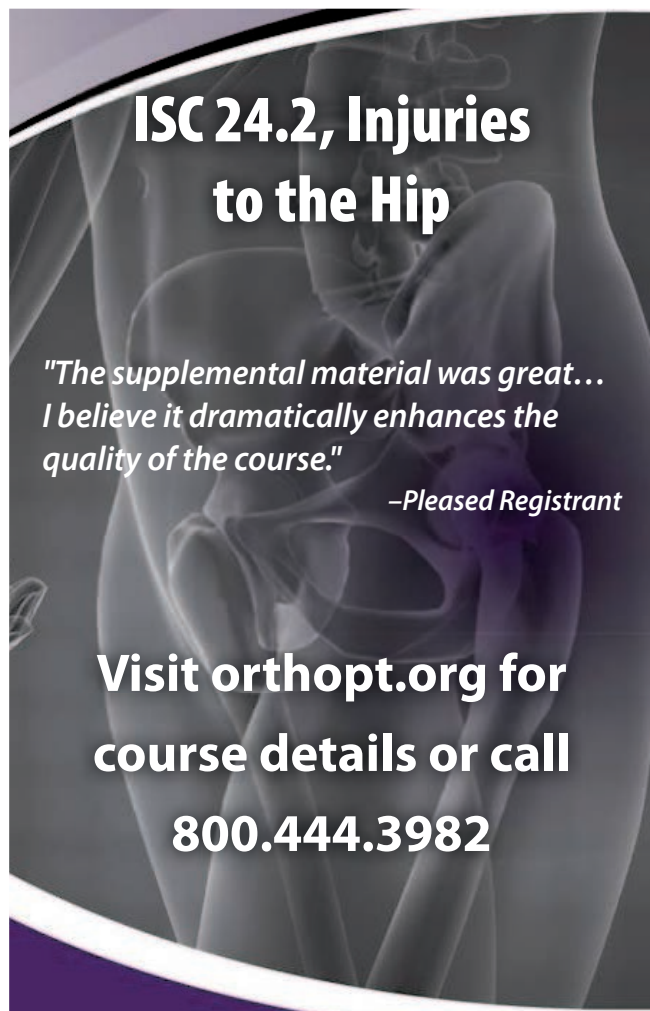
The FASIG is dedicated to the development of the physical therapist foot and ankle specialist. Yet, the direction of the FASIG is entirely up to you. Interested in certifications or fellowships? Interested in starting a conversation with another foot

and ankle therapist? Need help developing a research question? ALL of these questions can be answered and so many opportunities await you in the FASIG.



Foot and Ankle
Orthopaedic Section Independent
Study Course 22.3

Visit orthopt.org for course details
or call 800.444.3982 to order this course today!



ISC 24.2, Injuries
to the Hip

*"The supplemental material was great...
I believe it dramatically enhances the
quality of the course."*

—Pleased Registrant

Visit orthopt.org for
course details or call
800.444.3982

Featuring access to over 45 video clips
demonstrating therapeutic exercises for
the hip and also a supplement exercise booklet.